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C. F. HAYES,  
Business Manager.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1910.

## TWO GOOD SPEECHES.

Monday's debate served to bring out some of the new debating talents into the arena of legislation by the elections. The speech of the mover and seconder of the address in reply were both good, go it in matter, in language and delivery. Not less satisfactory was the omission of the thousand and one things which may be drawn into a speech on a certain topic, and which can only be unnecessary and morally unprofitable. The speakers showed sound judgment alike in what they said and in what they considered it unnecessary to say. If the new results measure up to the standard set on Monday the session should be enlivened by many excellent speeches and many debates.

## A NEEDED CROSSING.

A petition is being circulated asking the city council to provide a crossing over or under the C.N.R. and G.T.P. tracks at Eighth or Ninth street. It is only a question of time when such crossing will have to be provided and there are reasons for thinking the matter had better be taken up now.

The distance from the track is already settling up fairly fast. It would settle much faster if it were not cut off from the business district on West Jasper and from all the district south of the tracks, from First to Sixteenth street. "It is centrally located with respect to business, property, and its settlement will give more compactness to the city. The petition is signed largely by residents of the district, who declare they suffer considerable inconveniences by reason of the lack of a crossing."

The petition is making no appearance when the new High school is completed, probably next fall. Many schoolboys will be drawn from the south of the tracks, and without a crossing these would have the alternative of going around by First street or of taking the long way across the railway yards safely. Warning to the contrary, many of them would choose the latter course, and sooner or later the inevitable would happen, and danger aside, the inconvenience of the situation would be vastly increased. It is difficult to imagine unchanged after the school opens.

There would be little opposition to a crossing, but the railway companies will probably next fall. Many schoolboys will be drawn from the south of the tracks, and without a crossing these would have the alternative of going around by First street or of taking the long way across the railway yards safely. Warning to the contrary, many of them would choose the latter course, and sooner or later the inevitable would happen, and danger aside, the inconvenience of the situation would be vastly increased. It is difficult to imagine unchanged after the school opens.

It will likely take some time to negotiate the matter after the Council takes it up. The railway companies will probably be approached as to their portion of the cost and an appeal to the railway commissioners will be necessary.

It would seem best therefore to not lose any time in making a start, and to work with the object of having the crossing ready as soon after the new school opens as possible.

## EXPERIMENTAL FARMS FOR THE NORTH.

An experimental farm is to be established by the Dominion Government at Grand Prairie, 250 miles northwest of Edmonton. An experiment station has been in operation for a time at Fort Vermilion on the Peace River. The establishment of these stations is another indication of the excellent reputation the north-western country has won as a country adapted to agriculture. Their existence and the fact that they are considered justified if the country can be successfully farmed on, is a strong argument in favor of the opening up of the north. The Peace River. The establishment of these stations is another indication of the excellent reputation the north-western country has won as a country adapted to agriculture. Their existence and the fact that they are considered justified if the country can be successfully farmed on, is a strong argument in favor of the opening up of the north.

The farms will not in reality be altogether experimental in character. That is, they will not be testing the

question of whether or not farming can be carried on in that part of Canada. That question has already been solved by a remarkable number of experiments, some of which have been conducted along the Peace for many years. The duty of the experimental stations will rather be to find out what crops, and what varieties of the different grains, do best in that particular soil. It has been proved that the ordinary field crops, even those grown there successfully, the experimental farms will investigate to find which of them is most successful. They should be profitmakers for the settlers by showing them the kinds of crops which do best and the kinds which prove the poorest the largest margin.

They will also be accurate and authoritative information as to the country's capabilities. Hitherto such information has been drawn from personal sources, and has been established by scores of witnesses, photographs and by some remarkably fine samples of grain sent out. Yet information of this kind drawn from private sources never carries the same weight as that obtained over the signature of an responsible official. Strangers are apt to be skeptical when the witness is known to be favorably disposed toward "this" district; and the spokesman of the experiment station is often less favorable to it. It is not at all unusual for an official to say that a report signed by an official having no personal state in the country will be taken more readily by men in the United States in Eastern Canada and across the water than one prepared by a settler whose interest lies in the promotion of the district.

The experimental farm, too, is run on scientific lines. Every thing is weighed, measured and timed. The growth of each plant is carefully noted, and only is known. The growth is carefully noted from week to week and the observations recorded. The crop harvested is critically examined and weighed, and a record of the yield and satisfaction is spreading rapidly. Foreign residents are in danger and need not be afraid to come to the district. The majority of the commission in their report advocate a state university and our own organization of the various branches of the legislature.

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